(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) There are specific provisions under the Antarctica Treaty for modification or amendment of the same. As far as we are aware, there has been no move for any such modification or amendment presented to the depositories or the contracting parties.

The question of India's opposition, therefore, does not arise.

Production of super computers

250. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state::

(a) whether Government propose to start a project to produce indigenously technical know-how based on super computers;

(b) whether Government propose to seek assistance from countries which have developed this technology;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) No, Sir, the Government does not propose to start a project at present to produce indigenously technical knowhow based super computers.

(b) No, Sir, the Government does not propose to seek assistance from the countries which have developed this technology.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Presently the demand for super computers in the country does not justify setting up of a manufacturing base in the country.

Development of Hill areas of Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh

251. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the Central asssistance for the development of its hill areas of Eastern Ghats;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to the Part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b and (c) At present, hill areas in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and in the Western Ghats region falling in the States of Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Goa are covered under the Hill Area Development Programme and are being provided with Special Central Assistance.

2 The question of delineation of hill areas on scientific lines was under consideration of a Sub-Group of the Working group on Hill Areas set up in the context of Seventh Five Year Plan. The Sub-Group, *inter alia* recommended the following criteria for identifying new areas:

(i) areas with average slope of 30 per cent and above may be treated as hill areas;

(ii) developmental blocks/talukas with 40 per cent of their geogra-